

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-15 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 /133 W

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R 221521Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

SECSTATE WASHDC 5431

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS MADRID 3128

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, SP, AG, SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA: US PETROLEUM COMPANY ACTIVITIES

REF: ALGIERS 998

1. THE US FIRMS CONOCO AND GULF WITH THE WHOLLY SPANISH OWNED FIRM CEPESA JOINTLY HELD A LICENSE TO EXPLORE FOR OIL IN THE SAHARA. HOWEVER, WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SPANISH ADMINISTRATION FROM THE AREA, THESE FIRMS CONSIDER THE LICENSE AS LAPSED.

2. ENPASA AND ENPENSA, BOTH 67 PERCENT OWNED BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HOLDING COMPANY INI, ALSO HAD LICENSES TO EXPLORE IN THE SAHARA. THE REMAINING SHARES OF ENPASA ARE OWNED JOINTLY BY THE FRENCH FIRMS SPAP, REGAP, ERA AND PETROREP.

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3. SUSPENSION OF PETROLEUM EXPLORATION IN SAHARA HAS
APPARENTLY BEEN DUE TO THE UNCLEAR STATUS OF THE
TERRITORY RATHER THAN "TO MAINTAIN THIS AFRICAN COAST
AT STRATEGIC RESERVE."
STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPLORATION, NATURAL RESOURCES, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID03128
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760153-0927
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760434/aaaabcrr.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ALGIERS 998
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 AUG 2004 by schaeafaj>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA: US PETROLEUM COMPANY ACTIVITIES
TAGS: ENRG, SP, AG, SS, MR, MO, CONOCO, GULF, CEPESA
To: ALGIERS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006